

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02908 142320Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----031301 142322Z /70

O 142317Z JUL 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2549  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02908

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: UN, XF  
SUBJECT: SYG WALDHEIM VISIT TO DAMASCUS

1. AMB. LEONARD MET WITH GUYER AND LIU OF UN SECRETARIAT ON JULY 14 FOR A BRIEF DISCUSSION REGARDING WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS ON JULY 17. GUYER WILL BE ACCOMPANYING WALDHEIM ON THIS TRIP AND WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT HE WILL BE RAISING SOME OF THE POINTS MENTIONED BELOW WITH WALDHEIM WHILE ENROUTE.

2. LEONARD TOLD GUYER THAT REPORTING FROM OUR EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS INDICAT-D THAT THE SYRIANS MISUNDERSTOOD OR UNDERESTIMATED THE IMPLICATIONS OF A NUMBER OF FACTORS IN THE LEBANESE CRISIS, AND THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR WALDHEIM TO PRESENT SOME OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS TO ASSAD. LEONARD ADDED THAT WALDHEIM COULD PRESENT THESE AS REFLECTING VIEWS OF SOME OF THE STATES WITH WHICH  
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HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT IF HE DID NOT WANT TO PRESENT THEM DIRECTLY AS HIS OWN. HE THEN OUTLINED THREE PROBLEMS.

A. THE DIFFICULT POSITION IN WHICH THE SYRIANS HAVE PLACED SARKIS BY THEIR HEAVY SHELLING OF EAST BEIRUT. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT SYRIAN OFFICIALS

UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING SARKIS IN OFFICE,  
AS AN ELEMENT OF LEGITIMACY FOR THEIR OWN (THAT IS,  
ADF) PRESENCE IN LEBANON.

B. THE EXTENT OF CRITICAL OPINION IN THE  
WEST AGAINST SYRIA IF IT RESUMES ITS SHELLING OF BEIRUT.

C. THE DETERMINATION OF THE CHRISTIANS  
IN BEIRUT TO RESIST A DIRECT ONSLAUGHT FROM THE SYRIAN  
ARMY.

3. GUYER AGREED WITH LEONARD ON THE IMPORTANCE OF  
TRYING TO CLARIFY THESE POINTS WITH ASSAD. THE MAIN  
MESSAGE WHICH WALDHEIM WOULD TRY TO PUT ACROSS, HE SAID,  
WAS THE ESSENTIALITY OF KEEPING SARKIS IN OFFICE.

4. GUYER ADDED THAT THE SYRIANS REMAINED CONVINCED THAT  
THERE IS A US/ISRAELI CONSPIRACY AGAINST THEM IN  
LEBANON. TO COUNTER THIS IMPRESSION, AMB. LEONARD TOLD  
GUYER THAT WALDHEIM COULD ASSURE ASSAD THAT WE HAVE BEEN  
IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH BEGIN AND WEIZMAN THROUGHOUT  
THIS LATEST CRISIS IN ORDER TO URGE UPON THEM IN VERY  
STRONG TERMS THE NEED FOR RESTRAINT AND TO ASK THEM TO  
USE THEIR INFLUENCE WITH THE CHRISTIANS TO PREVENT  
RESUMPTION OF LARGE-SCALE FIGHTING.

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5. GUYER TOLD LEONARD THAT IN ADDITION TO THE MEETING  
WITH ASSAD, WALDHEIM WOULD BE CONVENING A MEETING OF THE  
SENIOR UN STAFF INVOLVED IN LEBANON INCLUDING SIILASVOU,  
ERSKINE, AND SAUNDERS ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 17.  
LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Draft Date:** 14 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**TAGS:** PORG, OVIP, XF, SY, UN, (WALDHEIM, KURT)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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